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Select Agent Program
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
1600 Clifton Road, N.E.
Mail Stop E-79
Atlanta, GA 30333

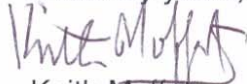
I am writing on behalf of the University of Chicago in response to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's solicitation for comments on 42 CFR Part 73, Interim Final Rule: Possession, Use, and Transfer of Select Agents and Toxins, published in the Federal Register, Vol. 240, No. 67 on Friday, December 13, 2002.

The University endorses the CDC's mandate to assure the security, safe use, maintenance and disposition of agents that pose a significant public risk. As a University, we also support the appropriate availability of biological agents and toxins for research, education and other legitimate purposes. The University accepts its responsibility to comply with necessary safeguards and security requirements that protect the public while permitting valuable research and education to take place. However, certain aspects of the proposed regulations should be re-examined before the Final Rule is issued. Our concerns center on those proposed requirements that are overly protective, involve administrative procedures that are unclear and could benefit from streamlining and clarification, and procedures our institution must put in place to assure compliance.

I have reviewed the comments and recommendations for 42 CFR Part 73 submitted by the Howard Hughes Medical Institute (HHMI) on January 21, 2003. The University of Chicago appreciates the diligent and thoughtful responses made by HHMI and recommends that CDC accept the HHMI comments. I have attached a copy of the HHMI "Comments on 42 CFR Part 73" for your reference. Generally, adoption of the recommendations of the HHMI will lessen the administrative burden of the Final Rule, allow for an effective performance-based security plan, and ensure the relevance of the Final Rule to the biomedical research environment.

I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Interim Final Rule.

Sincerely yours,



Keith Moffat

Enclosure: Comments on 42 CFR Part 73, Interim Final Rule
Possession, Use and Transfer of Select Agents and Toxins

cc: Mary Ellen Sheridan